

Remarks/Arguments

By this amendment, Applicant has added new claims 9-16, which are believed to be allowable in view of the cited art of record. Claims 1 - 8 have been indicated as allowed by the Examiner in the previous communication mailed March 23, 2005. Independent claims 9 and 15 have been newly added. Support for these claims may be found throughout the specification and drawings, and in claims 1 and 7 as originally filed. New claims 10-14 depend from independent claim 9 and recite subject matter analogous to that recited in claims 2-6. New claim 16 depends from independent claim 15 and recites subject matter analogous to that recited in Claim 8.

Newly added independent Claim 9 broadly recites a method for power level control in a display device, including:

estimating a local temperature for the corresponding blocks of the display in dependence on said local power values and the previously estimated local temperature values,

selecting a maximum local temperature in the display from the estimated local temperature values,

determining a maximum power level limit based on the maximum local temperature, wherein the power level limit is used to restrict the range of selectable power level modes in the power level mode selection process to power level modes having a power level below or equal to said power level limit.

In similar fashion, newly added independent apparatus Claim 15 recites in part,

said apparatus further includes a local temperature estimator, that performs a local temperature estimation per block of the display based on said local power values and the previously estimated power values,

a maximum local temperature selector that selects the maximum local temperature from the estimated local temperatures,

a maximum power level limit selector that assigns a maximum power level limit to the selected maximum local temperature, and

a power level limiter, wherein the power level limiter restricts the range of selectable power level modes in the power level mode selector to power level modes having a power level below or equal to said selected maximum power level limit.

The Hosoi et al. reference completely fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature that the local temperature estimation is made in dependence of the local temperature value in a previous estimation cycle as recited in present claim 9. Hosoi et al. provides no teaching whatsoever to use prior values of a local temperature estimation in combination with local power values to obtain a local temperature estimate that is then used to obtain a maximum local temperature and maximum power level limit for restricting the range of selectable power level modes. For at least these reasons, independent method claim 9 and corresponding apparatus claim 15 are patentable over Hosoi et al.

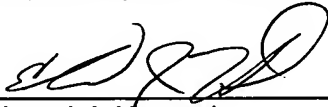
The above notwithstanding, the Hosoi et al. reference shows in Fig. 3 that RGB signals are synthesized, and that with the synthesized RGB signals an APL (average picture level) is calculated. The APL value of a block is directly compared to a reference value for power level control, as discussed in col. 9, lines 13 – 36. Nowhere is it shown in Hosoi et al, that the APL calculating block 105 performs a local temperature estimation, much less a local temperature estimation as recited in present claims 9 and 15.

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent method claim 9 and apparatus claim 15 are patentably distinguishable over the Hosoi et al. reference and should be allowed. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

It is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (215) 542-5824, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

Date

June 20, 2005

Edna Schmittinger

